imperfect liaison between the Revenue department and the Public Works department A debate in the Legislative Council last year so impressed me that I re-examined the whole question. An attempt is being made in consultation with those in a position to advise wisely in the matter to draw up better rules and set up more effective machinery.

**13. Administration of Justice.** Last year I directed the pointed attention of all whom it may concern to the law's delays and I threw out a hint that the Bar, so strong in this State, might co-operate in securing a quicker disposal of cases. The chapter of the Administration Report dealing with civil and criminal justice speaks to you of cases in terms of multitudinous days stratifying into years. I do not propose to depress you further with percentages. The High Court is enforcing stringent measures to accelerate disposals and results will, it is expected, become apparent by the end of the year. As everyone here knows, it is not the practice of the Government to interfere with the administration of justice ; but a responsibility lies upon them in the providing of the personnel of the judiciary. The Government and the High Court have deliberated upon this and, thinking jointly, have come to the conclusion that the present system of recruitment and promotion needs re-ordering. Revised methods will shortly be adopted.

**14. Police.** I do not propose to ask you today to pick your way carefully through all the departments. You will all be anxious to know the result of the work of the Traffic Inspectors who came into being as the direct result of the rapid development of motor traffic all over the State. There has already been an appreciable reduction in the number of motor offences. One officer at least whom the Police Commissioner refers to as his Honorary Inspector of motor traffic can testify to the fact that there is more orderliness on the highways and byways.

**Agriculture.** The Department of Agriculture continues its well-directed scientific investigations. It demonstrates and inculcates with energy and slowly but surely the people, long immersed in the traditions of their most ancient occupation, are turning to that department for help and guidance, and already there are directions in which its good work is made manifest.

**Industries.** The Department of Industries also has to struggle against the inertia of age-long custom. The artisans of Travancore are fine craftsmen, but to incite them to new directions of creative effort and to break new ground must remain a difficult task until some day an inward urge is enkindled. Until then the department can but try, as it is doing, and hope for the best. The instructional institutions in the control of the department are doing good work.

**Anchal.** The Anchal is steadily growing in popularity and in efficiency. There is an increasing demand for the opening of savings bank work in more offices. Mails are now carried by motor van services over seven lines.

**Forests.** The Forest department, although always with its eye on the long view, has been remarkably active in prudently turning to profit what the forests already yield. On its conservancy side proper it has a commendable record of achievement. Professional visitors from outside the State have come to admire and to learn from the successful re-generation processes, particularly the taungya system, which the department is carrying out for the benefit of generations yet unborn. Meanwhile, it contributed to the revenues of the State a net amount of about Rs. 8 lakhs.

**Co-operative Societies.** The co-operative movement is rapidly spreading throughout the State and societies continue to increase and multiply. At the end of 1102 there were 1,555 societies and since then 85 have been added. The pity of it is that the great majority are nothing more than credit societies. Whether a profusion of such societies does in reality foster thrift remains to be seen. Equally provocative of thought is the tendency societies display to follow sectarian cleavages. There are 642 societies constituted on a communal basis. The awakening of the depressed classes finds evidence in the formation of 222 societies constituted for their benefit. This is probably the direct result of the association of the offices of Protector of the Depressed Classes and Registrar of Co-operative Societies.

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